

cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned with questions or to otherwise expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 2, 2001

Registration No. 38,956

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL

P.O. Box 061080

Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080

(312) 876-3119